IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-4 and 7-12 as follows:

1. (Amended) An image input device for picking up images of [a plurality of] one or more subjects by switching of an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

image pickup means for picking up an image of a subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

image pickup direction switching means for switching the image pickup direction of said image pickup means;

first detection means for detecting an angle of the image pickup direction and for determining whether the detected angle is equal to a predetermined angle; and

storage means for storing [the image signal according to the detected angle] an image signal of the one or more subjects when the predetermined angle is detected by said first detection means.

2. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 1, [wherein said first detection means includes] further comprising:

second detection means for [finding that] determining whether the image pickup direction is fixed, [and

- 3 -

said storage means stores the image signal according to the detection result of said second detection means]

wherein said storage means is structured to store said image signal when the image pickup is determined, by said second detection means, to be fixed.

3. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 1, further comprising:

driving means for changing the image pickup direction of said image pickup means,

wherein said storage means stores the image signal [according to a signal for driving said driving means] when a signal for driving said driving means is applied.

4. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 1 or 3, wherein said storage means stores the image signal corresponding to the image pickup direction of said predetermined angle when the image pickup means is switched from a direction for picking up an image of a document to a direction for picking up an image of a person.

7. (Amended) An image input device [capable of] for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

a mount table for laying a subject thereon;

- 4 -

image pickup means for picking up an image of said subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

image pickup direction switching means for switching the image pickup direction of said image pickup means between a direction for picking up an image of said subject laid on said mount table and another direction;

[storage means for storing the image signal output from said image pickup means; and

control means for controlling said storage means to store the image signal output from said image pickup means when the image pickup direction of said image pickup means is set at said direction for picking up an image of said subject] detection means for detecting the image pickup direction of said image pickup means; and

storage means for storing the image signal output from said image pickup means when the image pickup direction of said image pickup means detected by said detecting means is the direction for picking up said subject on said mount table.

8.   (Amended) An image input device according to claim 7, [wherein said] further comprising control means which allows the image signal stored in said storage means to be output when the image pickup direction of said image

- 5 -

pickup means is set at a direction for picking up an image of a subject other than said subject laid on said mount table.

9.   (Amended) An image input device according to claim 7, wherein said storage means has [at least] more than two storage areas for storing an image signal, and said image input device further comprises:

a switch for storing, in said storage means, the image signal output from said image pickup means [in said storage means]; and

assigning means for assigning a number of the image signal stored by operation of said switch.

10.   (Amended) An image input method for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction and outputting image signals corresponding to picked-up images of [said] the subjects, said image input method comprising the steps of:

detecting [the] an angle of the image pickup direction and determining whether the detected angle is equal to a predetermined angle; and

storing the image signals [according to] when the detected angle is equal to the predetermined angle.

12.   (Amended) An image input method according to claim 11, further comprising a controlling step of

- 6 -

controlling the stored image signals to be output when the <u>detected angle of the</u> image pickup direction is shifted from <u>an angle corresponding to</u> said document image pickup direction to <u>an angle corresponding to</u> said person image pickup direction.

Please add Claim 13 as follows:

--13. An image input device according to claim 1, wherein said storage means stores said image signal when an angle which is not equal to said predetermined angle is detected by said first detection means.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are now presented for examination. Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 12 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention Claim 13 has been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. The abstract has been carefully reviewed and amended as to matters of form, including those kindly pointed out in the Office Action.

Claims 1, 7 and 10 are the only independent claims.

Initially, Applicant notes that European Patent Application 0 617 562 was incorrectly listed on the Examiner's Notice of References Cited as a Japanese document. Applicant requests that a corrected Notice be forwarded with the next Office Action.

- 7 -